むらかわみちお
Michio Murakawa

虚数霊 1

MFコミックス

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MEDIA FACTORY

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MEDIA FACTORY

Kyosuurei

Volume 1

Murakawa Michio

MFコミックス
フラパーシリーズ

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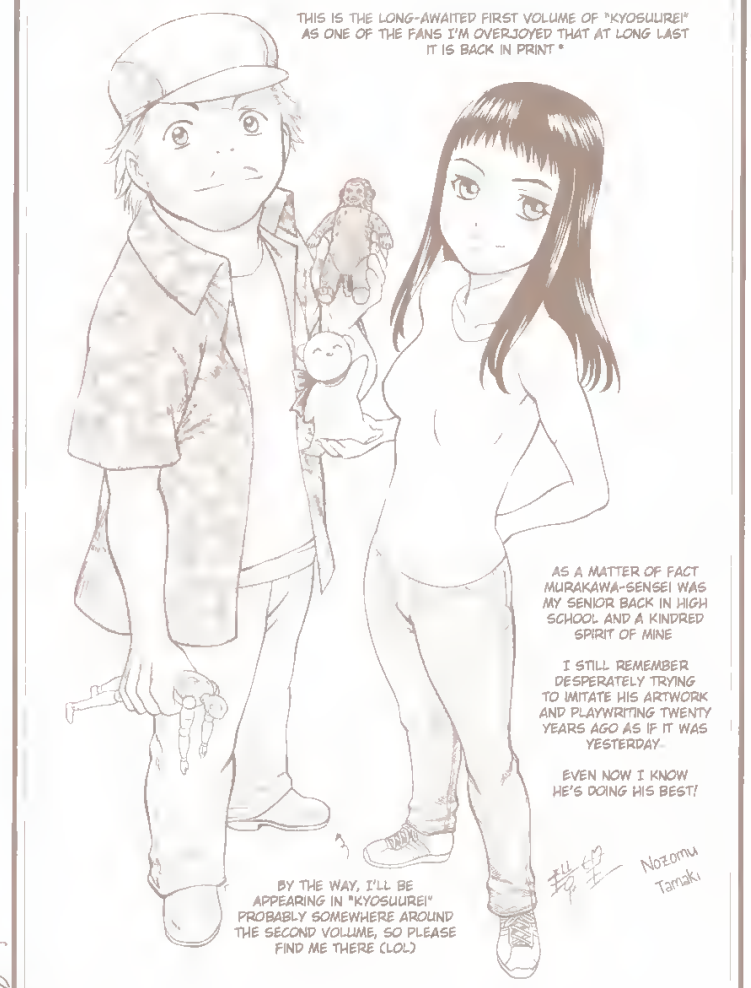
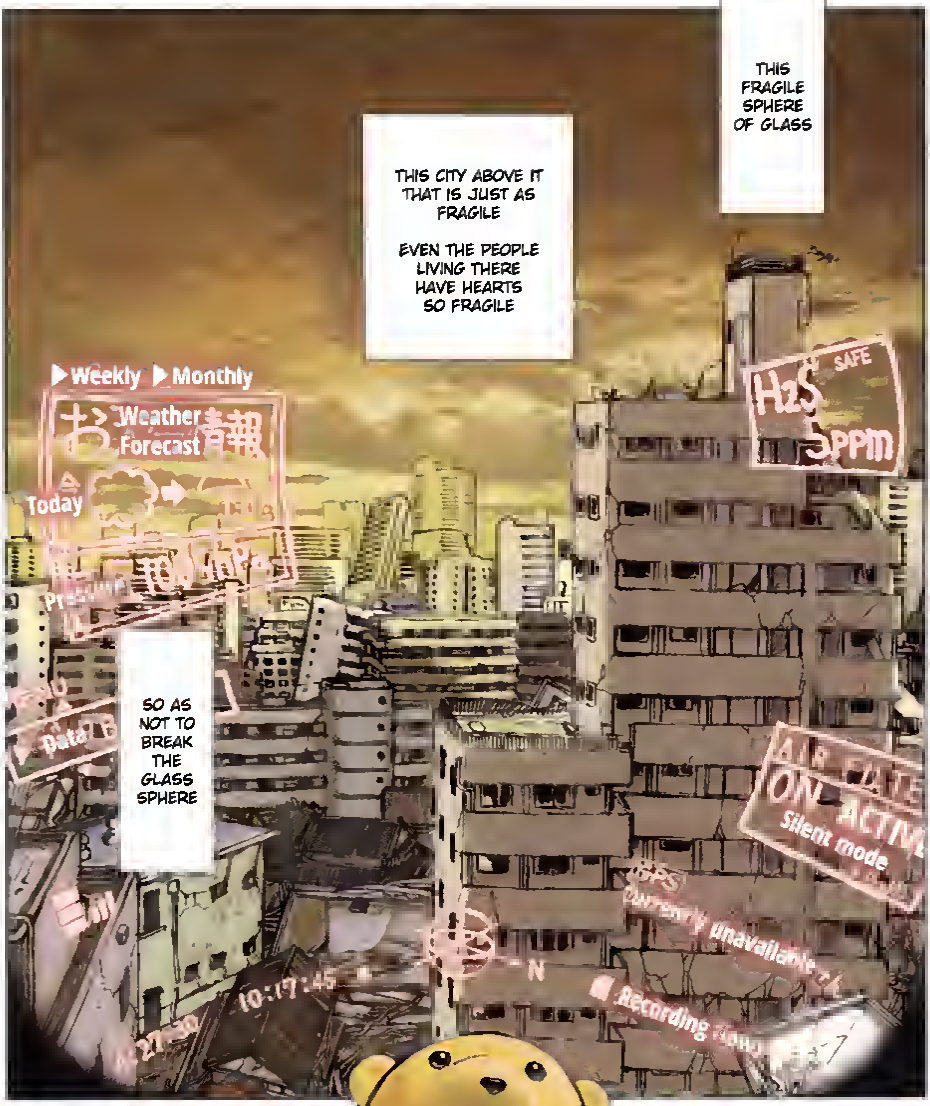
MEDIA FACTORY


THIS IS THE LONG-AWAITED FIRST VOLUME OF "KYOSUUREI" AS ONE OF THE FANS I'M OVERJOYED THAT AT LONG LAST IT IS BACK IN PRINT.*
AS A MATTER OF FACT MURAKAWA-SENSEI WAS MY SENIOR BACK IN HIGH SCHOOL AND A KINDRED SPIRIT OF MINE
I STILL REMEMBER DESPERATELY TRYING TO IMITATE HIS ARTWORK AND PLAYWRITING TWENTY YEARS AGO AS IF IT WAS YESTERDAY.
EVEN NOW I KNOW HE'S DOING HIS BEST!
Nozomu Tamaki
BY THE WAY, I'LL BE APPEARING IN "KYOSUUREI" PROBABLY SOMEWHERE AROUND THE SECOND VOLUME, SO PLEASE FIND ME THERE (LOL)

*THE ORIGINAL 2004 COMPILATION PUBLISHED BY GENTOSHA'S COMIC BIRZ NEVER GOT PAST THE FIRST VOLUME, MEDIA FACTORY PICKED THIS SERIES UP IN 2009 AND RELEASED ALL THREE VOLUMES

Chapter 1-A


THIS FRAGILE SPHERE OF GLASS
THIS CITY ABOVE IT THAT IS JUST AS FRAGILE
EVEN THE PEOPLE LIVING THERE HAVE HEARTS SO FRAGILE
SO AS NOT TO BREAK THE GLASS SPHERE
Weekly
Monthly
Weather Forecast
Today
SAFE
H2S
3PPM
Silent mode
GPS
Currently unavailable
Recording
IS HOW IT GOES, KUU

虚数霊 1

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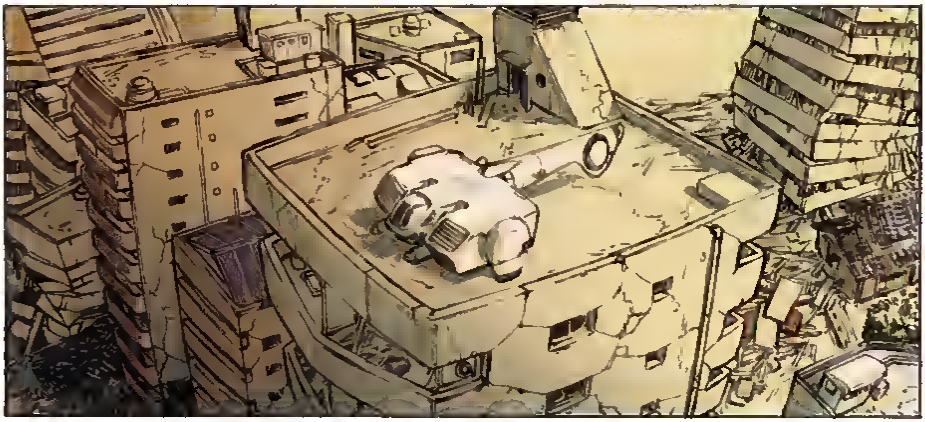
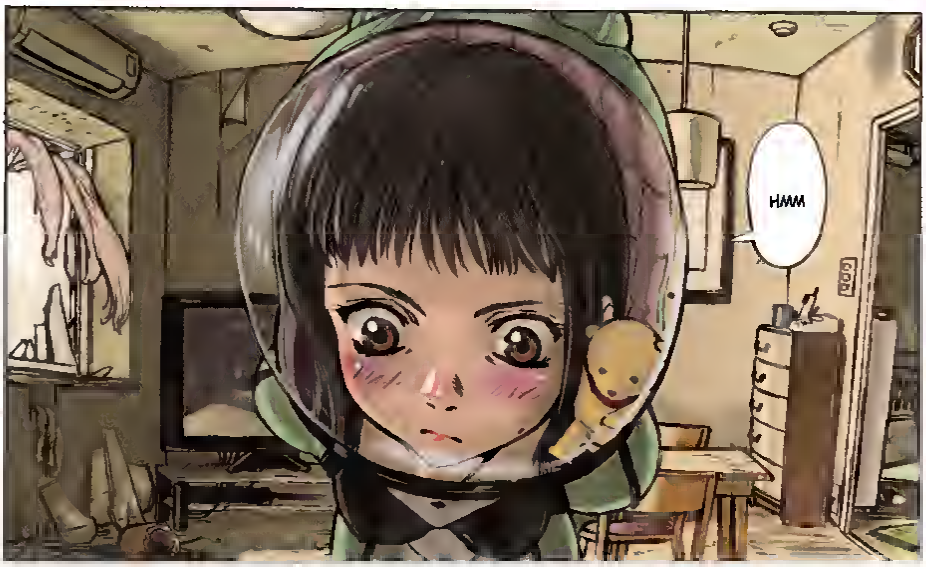
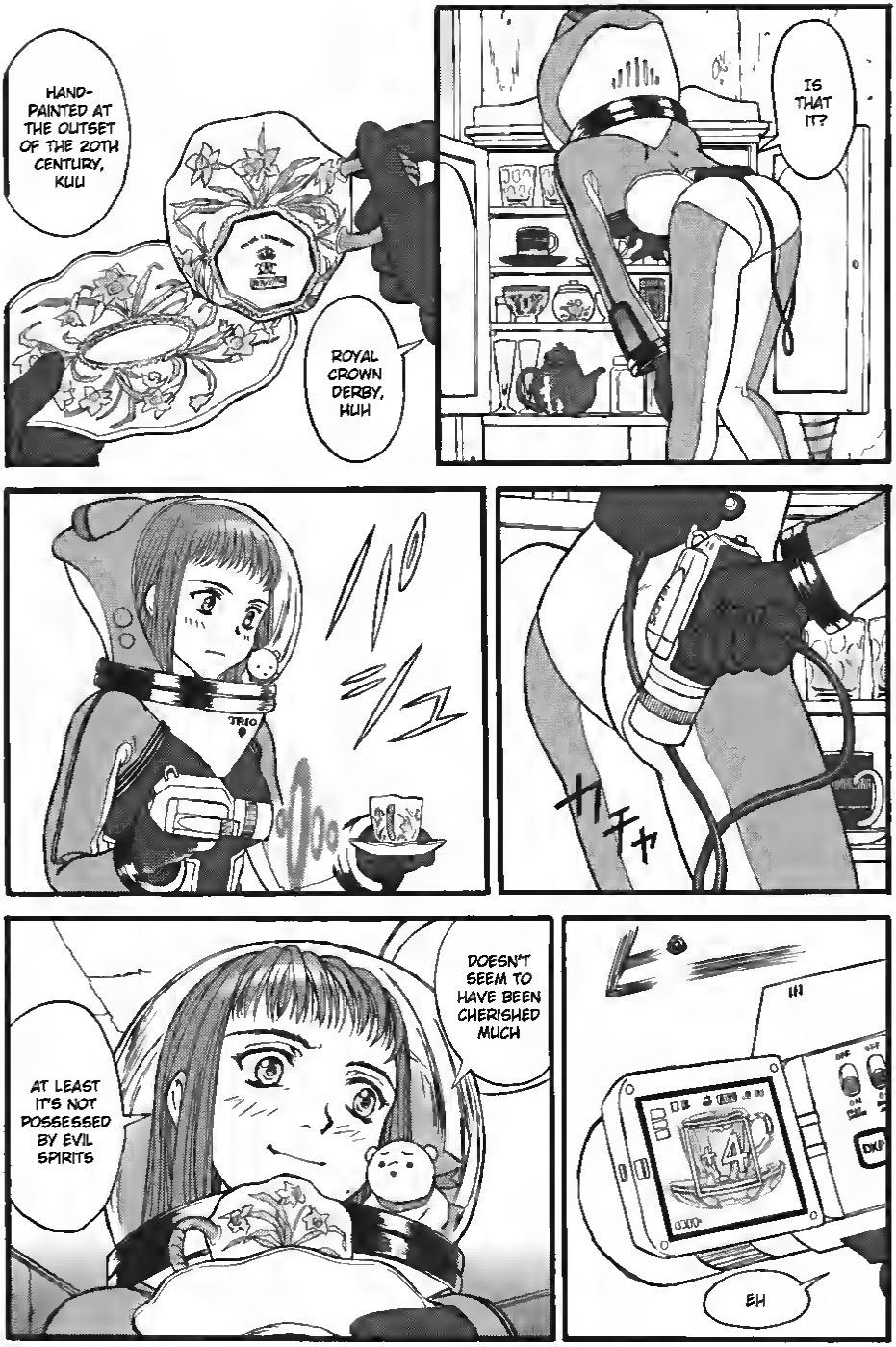
この物語はフィクションであり
実在する人物・団体とは関係ありません。

THIS STORY IS A WORK OF FICTION.
ANY RESEMBLANCE TO ACTUAL PEOPLE
OR COMPANIES IS ENTIRELY COINCIDENTAL.

QUOTING SOMEONE?
SASAKI SHOUICHIROU KUU
"TOKYO ON THE CITY"
TRIO
LOOKS LIKE IT'S GOING TO RAIN
WE SHOULD HEAD BACK SOON, KUU
YEAH... THERE'S JUST ONE HOUSE LEFT

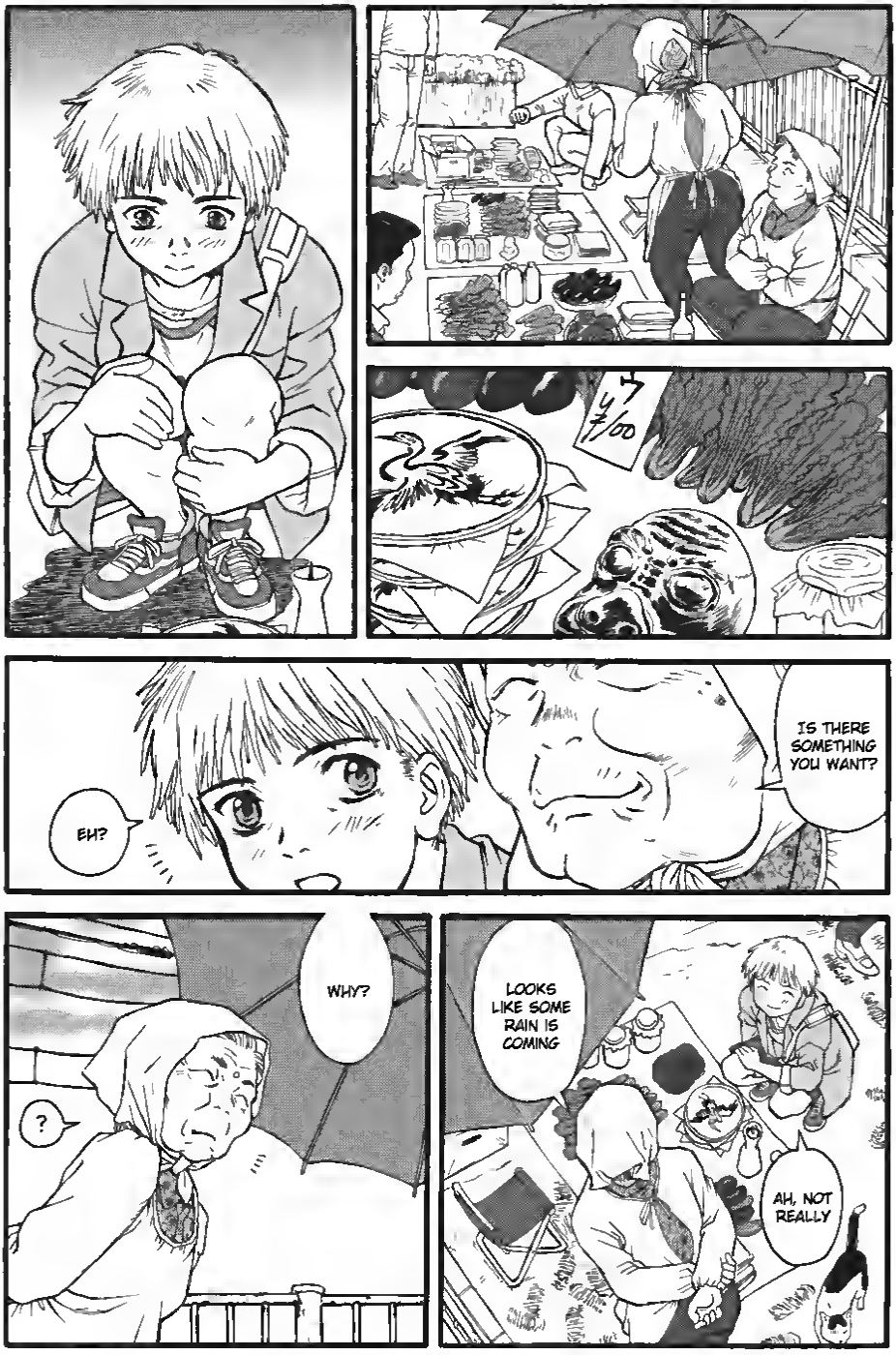


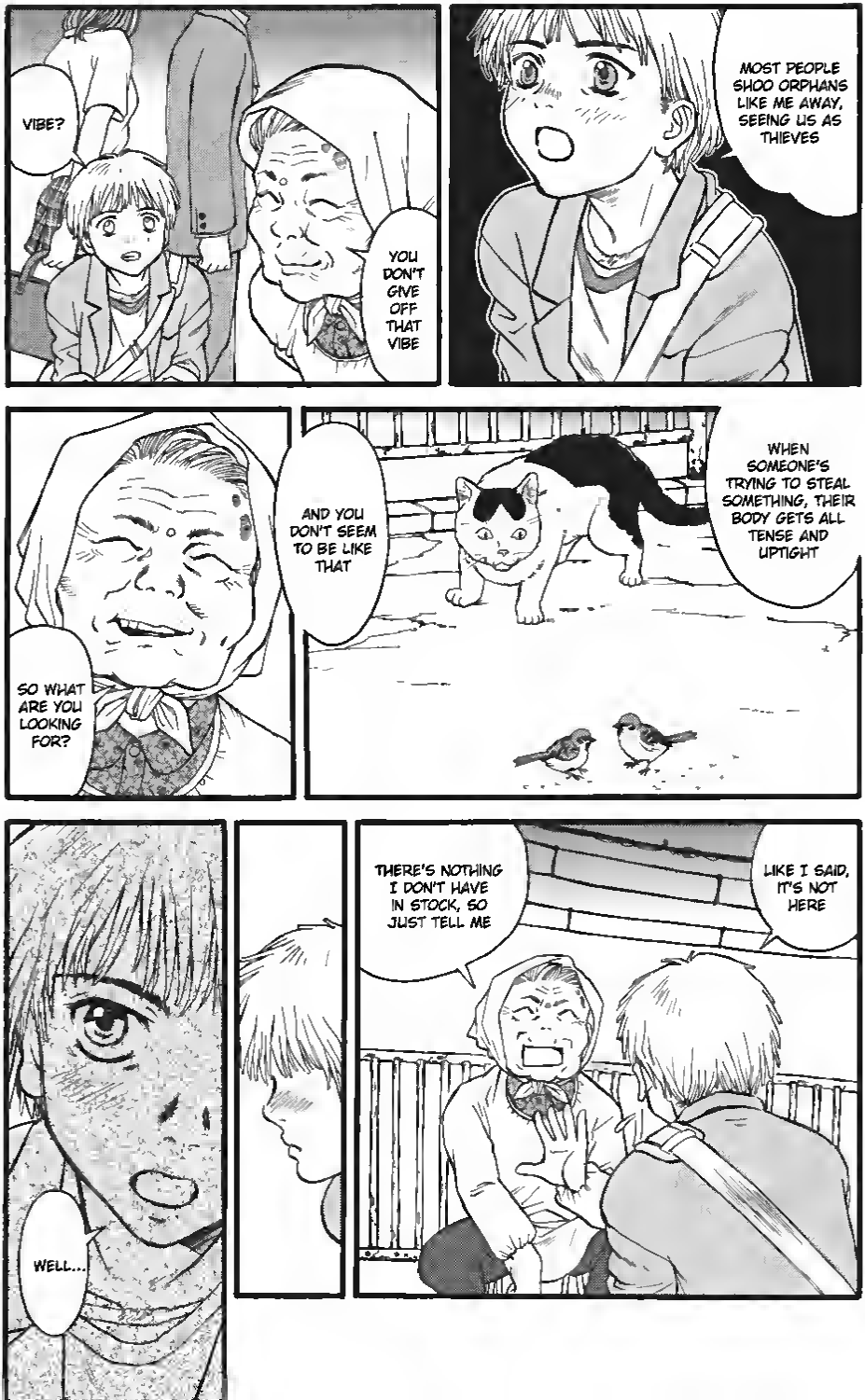

HMM

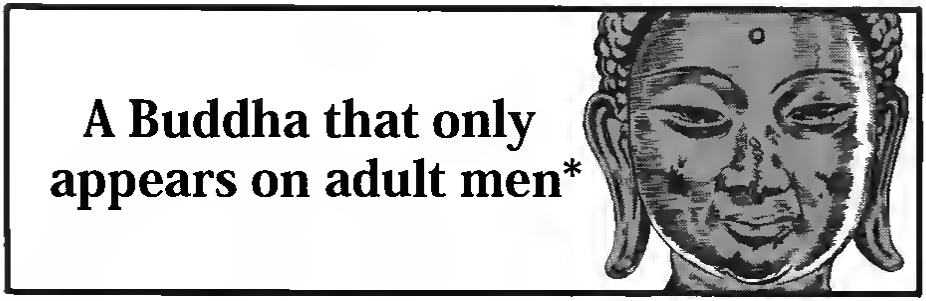

HAND-PAINTED AT THE OUTSET OF THE 20TH CENTURY, KUU
ROYAL CROWN DERBY, HUH
IS THAT IT?
DOESN'T SEEM TO HAVE BEEN CHERISHED MUCH
AT LEAST IT'S NOT POSSESSED BY EVIL SPIRITS
EH

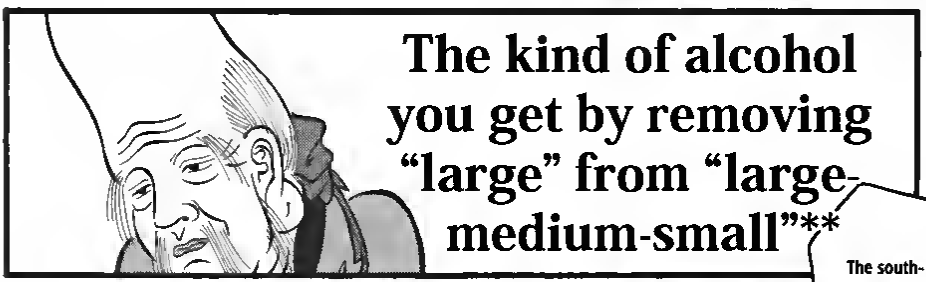
YEAH
ALL THIS OSCENTATION AND VANITY SHOWS THE COLD HEART OF MS. OFFICE LADY HERE
LOOKS LIKE SHE MADE A NICE LIVING, BUT...
DOESN'T LOOK LIKE WE'LL GET A DECENT READING FROM ANY OF THESE
AH
ピピピピピピピ
TRIO
ドロリ

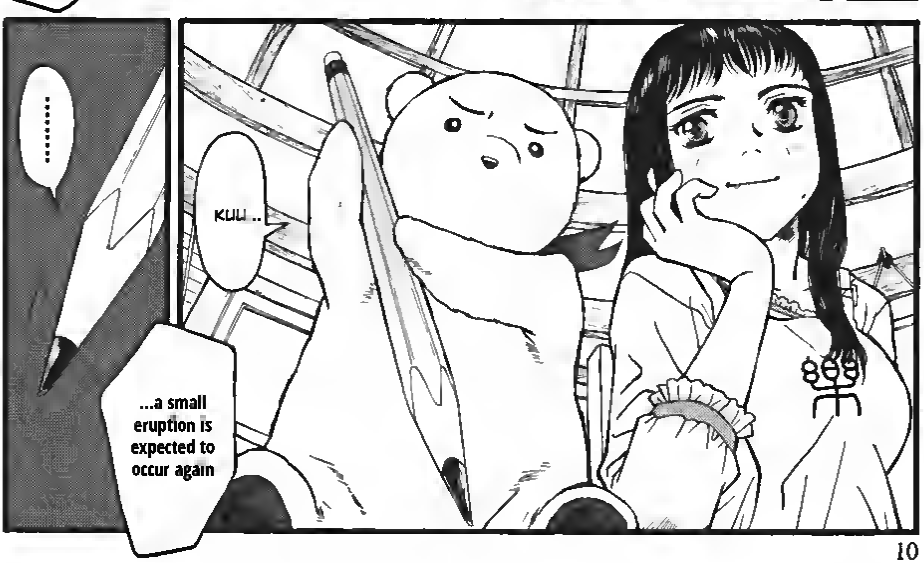
カタ
カタ
TAKASHI, WHY...
WHY... WHY, TAKASHI...
WHY, WHY... TAKASHI, WHY...
UWAAAAH
LOOKS LIKE IT'S HAUNTED BY A SPIRIT OF A BROKEN-HEARTED WOMAN
ビシッ
ドカドカ
ガタガタ
CRAP
NOW I'VE DONE IT
Rat-tle
I FIGURED THERE'D BE A TREASURE TROVE IN THE APARTMENT OF SUCH AN EXTRAVAGANT SINGLE WOMAN
BUT LOOKS LIKE IT'S JUST FULL OF TRAPS, KUU
LET'S HEAD BACK, SHALL WE
パラ
KUU
バチバチ
バチッ
チンチン
三輪橋
京成町屋駅
7513


IS THERE SOMETHING YOU WANT?
EH?
WHY?
?
LOOKS LIKE SOME RAIN IS COMING
AH, NOT REALLY


VIBE?
YOU DON'T GIVE OFF THAT VIBE
MOST PEOPLE SHOO ORPHANS LIKE ME AWAY, SEEING US AS THIEVES
SO WHAT ARE YOU LOOKING FOR?
AND YOU DON'T SEEM TO BE LIKE THAT
WHEN SOMEONE'S TRYING TO STEAL SOMETHING, THEIR BODY GETS ALL TENSE AND UPTIGHT
WELL...
THERE'S NOTHING I DON'T HAVE IN STOCK, SO JUST TELL ME
LIKE I SAID, IT'S NOT HERE



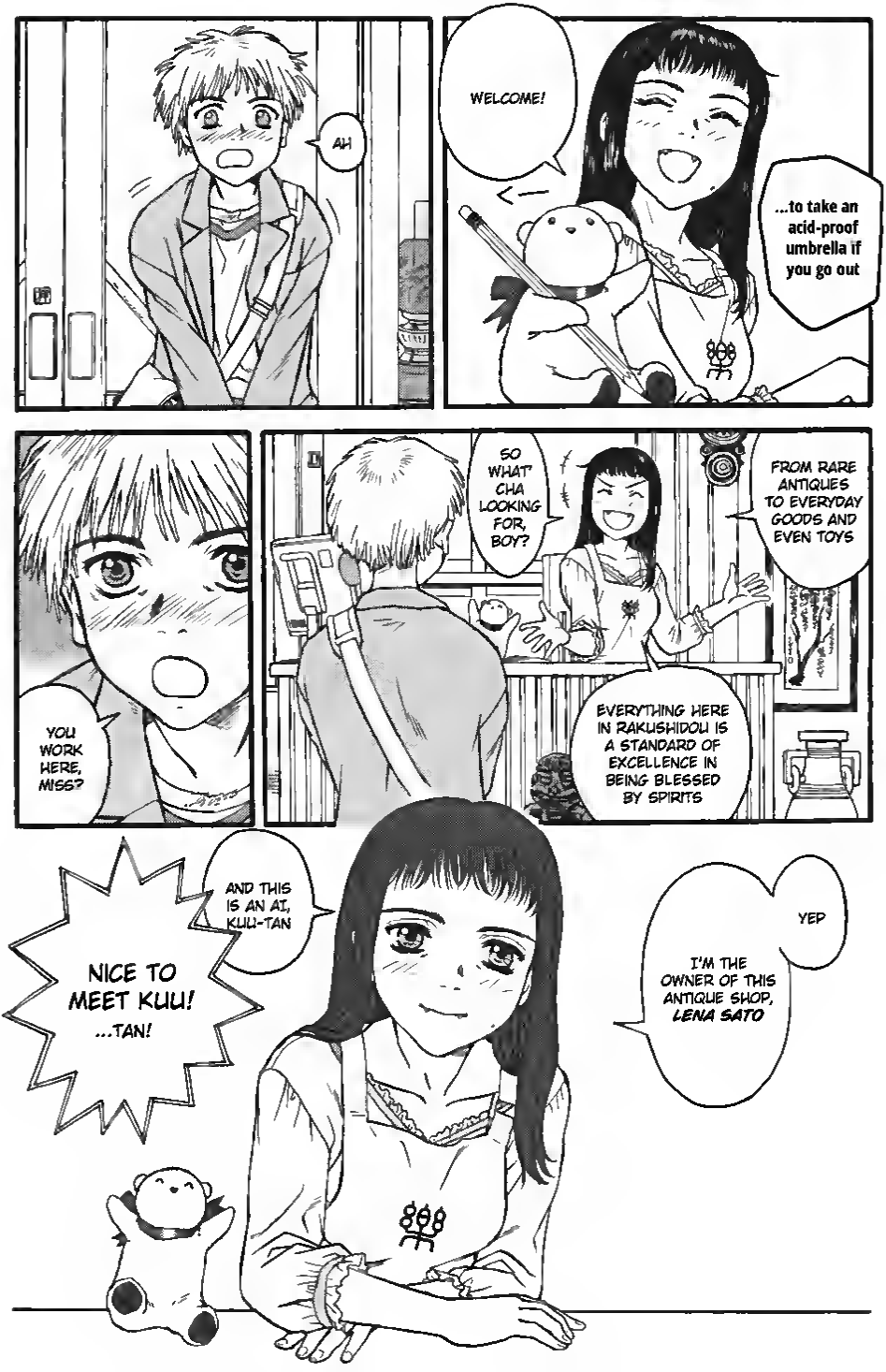




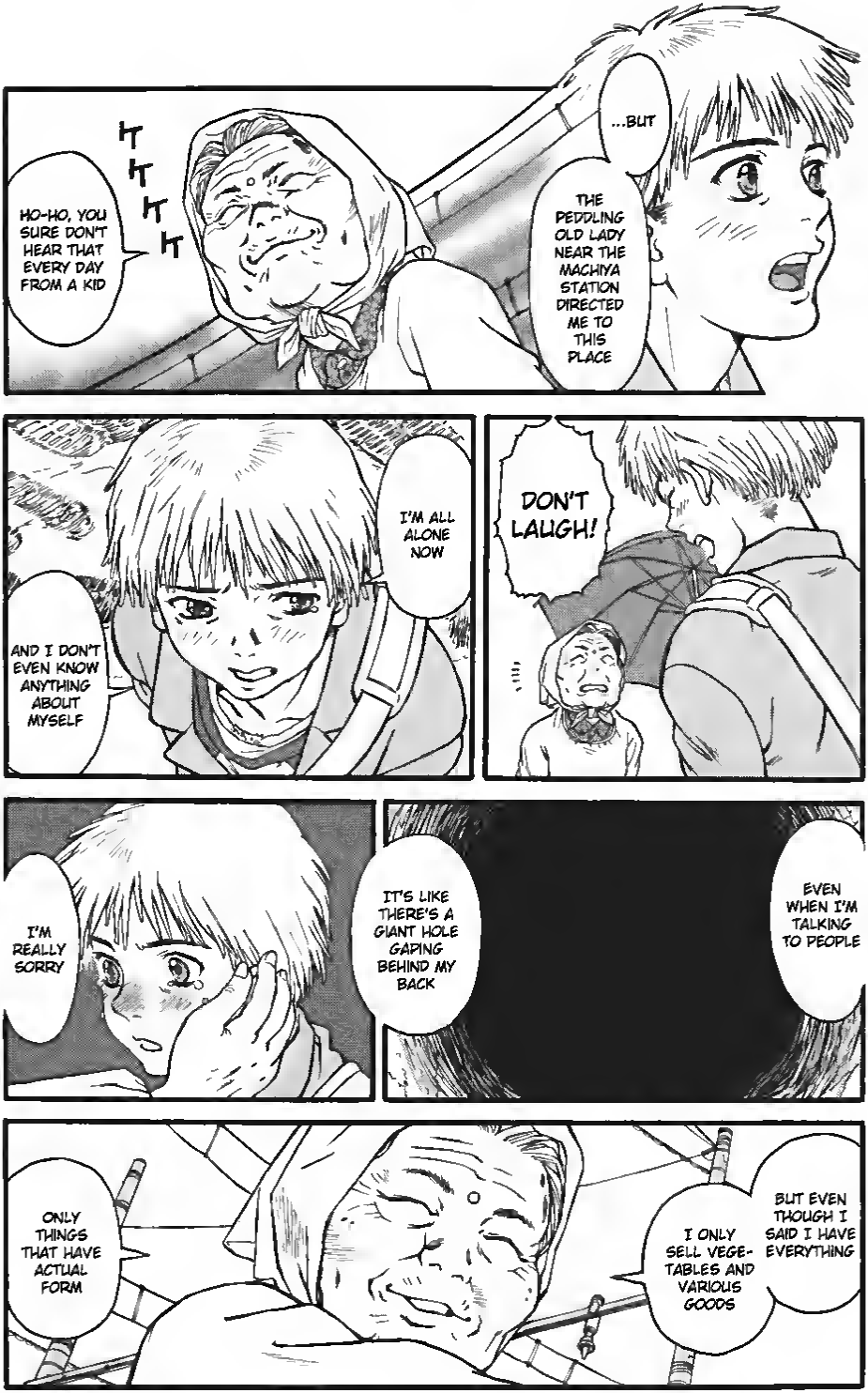
* ADAM'S APPLE IS CALLED "THROAT BUDDHA" IN JAPANESE
** SHOUCHUU, READS THE SAME AS "SMALL MEDIUM" IN JAPANESE

CAN'T BE HELPED
IT'S NO USE, KUU
Southern Kanto is expected to have acid rain with large amounts of ash
Odawara: 50mm
LOTS OF LEARNING YET TO DO!
SO IT'S HARD TO USE YOUR ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE
YOUR BATTERIES RAN DRY WHEN I PICKED YOU UP WHICH CAUSED A MEMORY RESET
RAINY AFTERNOON SURE IS GLOOMY
KU
A CUS-TOMER?
Greater Tokyo Area, Chiba prefecture coast: 20mm

THIS SHOULD BE THE PLACE
DO-SHI-RAK?
Saitama prefecture: about 5mm
So please don't forget...
Due to high Ph even a small amount can damage your clothing...

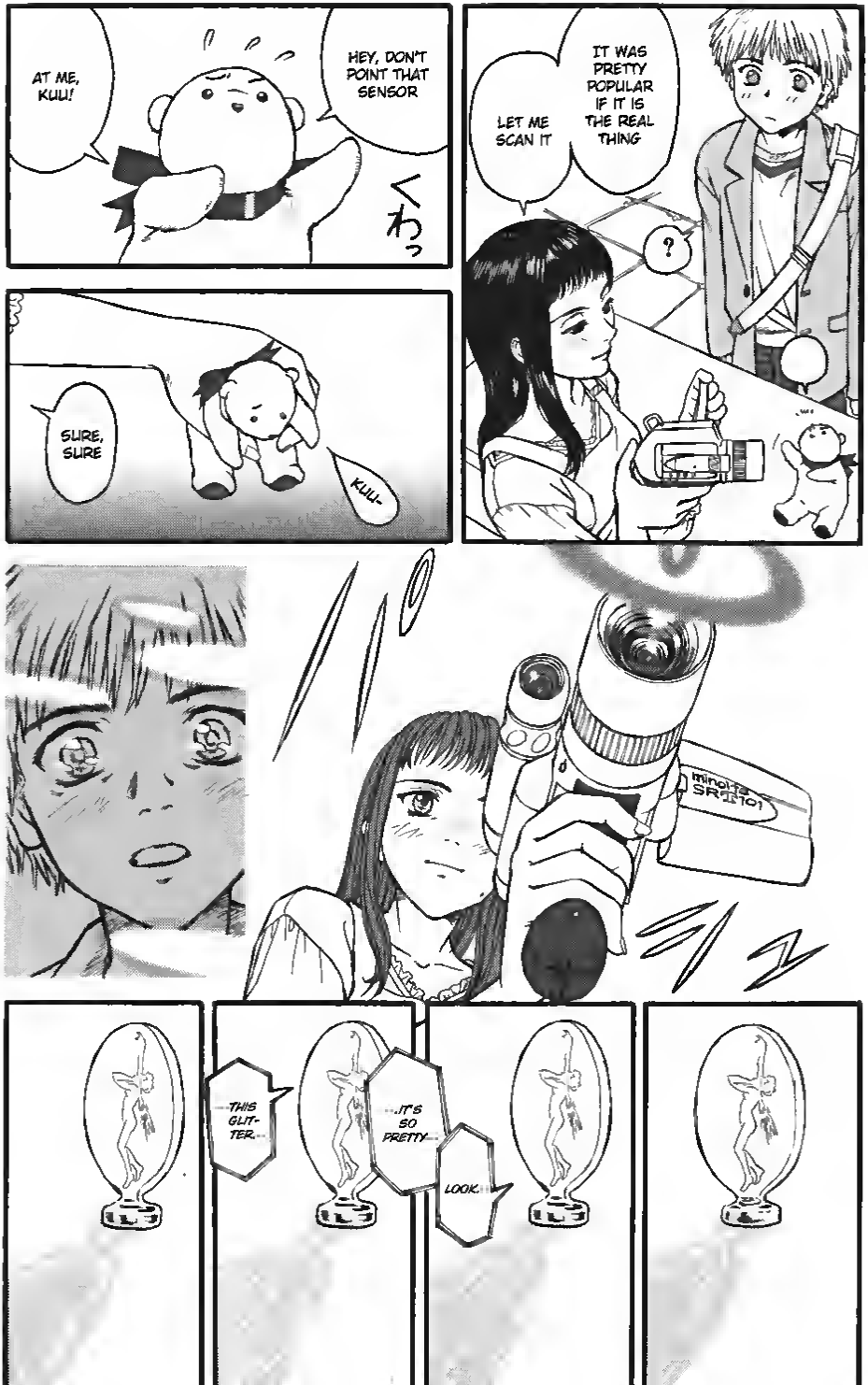

AH
WELCOME!
...to take an acid-proof umbrella if you go out
YOU WORK HERE, MISS?
SO WHAT' CHA LOOKING FOR, BOY?
FROM RARE ANTIQUES TO EVERYDAY GOODS AND EVEN TOYS
EVERYTHING HERE IN RAKUSHIDOU IS A STANDARD OF EXCELLENCE IN BEING BLESSED BY SPIRITS
YEP
I'M THE OWNER OF THIS ANTIQUE SHOP, LENA SATO
AND THIS IS AN AI, KUU-TAN
NICE TO MEET KUU! ...TAN!

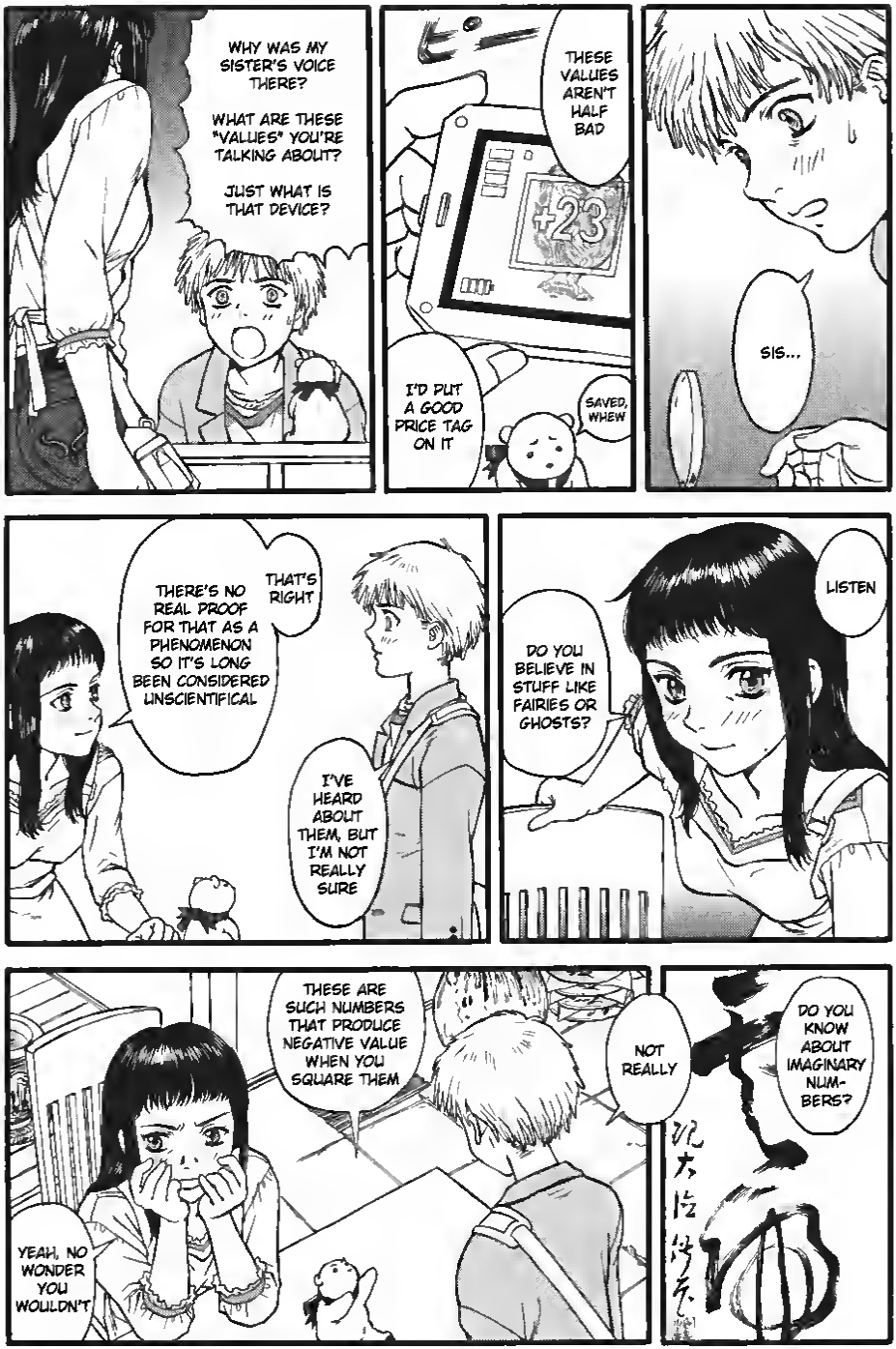
"AI" IS MAN-MADE ARTIFICIAL INTELLI-GENCE...
WELL...
EH?
"AI"? WHY'S THAT STUFFED DOLL TALKING?
I'LL GAG YOU
KUU-
LENA FOUND ME IN THE RUINS AND WE'VE BEEN PARTNERS EVER SINCE, KUU!
IT'S A MACHINE THAT CAN THINK MUCH LIKE A HUMAN
IT MIGHT LOOK LIKE A STUFFED BEAR, BUT THERE'S SOME AMAZING TECHNOLOGY INSIDE
...MY OWN PAST
WHAT'RE YOU TRYING TO FIND IN AN ANTIQUE SHOP?
...YOU'RE A DISASTER ORPHAN, AREN'T YOU?
I THINK THAT KID UNDERSTANDS IT JUST AS WELL, KUU
HUH? WELL, AS YOU CAN SEE THIS IS NO DETECTIVE AGENCY, THIS IS A STORE THAT SELLS OLD GOODS, NOT MEMORIES


HO-HO, YOU SURE DON'T HEAR THAT EVERY DAY FROM A KID
HHHH
...BUT
THE PEDDLING OLD LADY NEAR THE MACHIYA STATION DIRECTED ME TO THIS PLACE
I'M ALL ALONE NOW
AND I DON'T EVEN KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT MYSELF
DON'T LAUGH!
I'M REALLY SORRY
IT'S LIKE THERE'S A GIANT HOLE GAPING BEHIND MY BACK
EVEN WHEN I'M TALKING TO PEOPLE
ONLY THINGS THAT HAVE ACTUAL FORM
I ONLY SELL VEGE-TABLES AND VARIOUS GOODS
BUT EVEN THOUGH I SAID I HAVE EVERYTHING

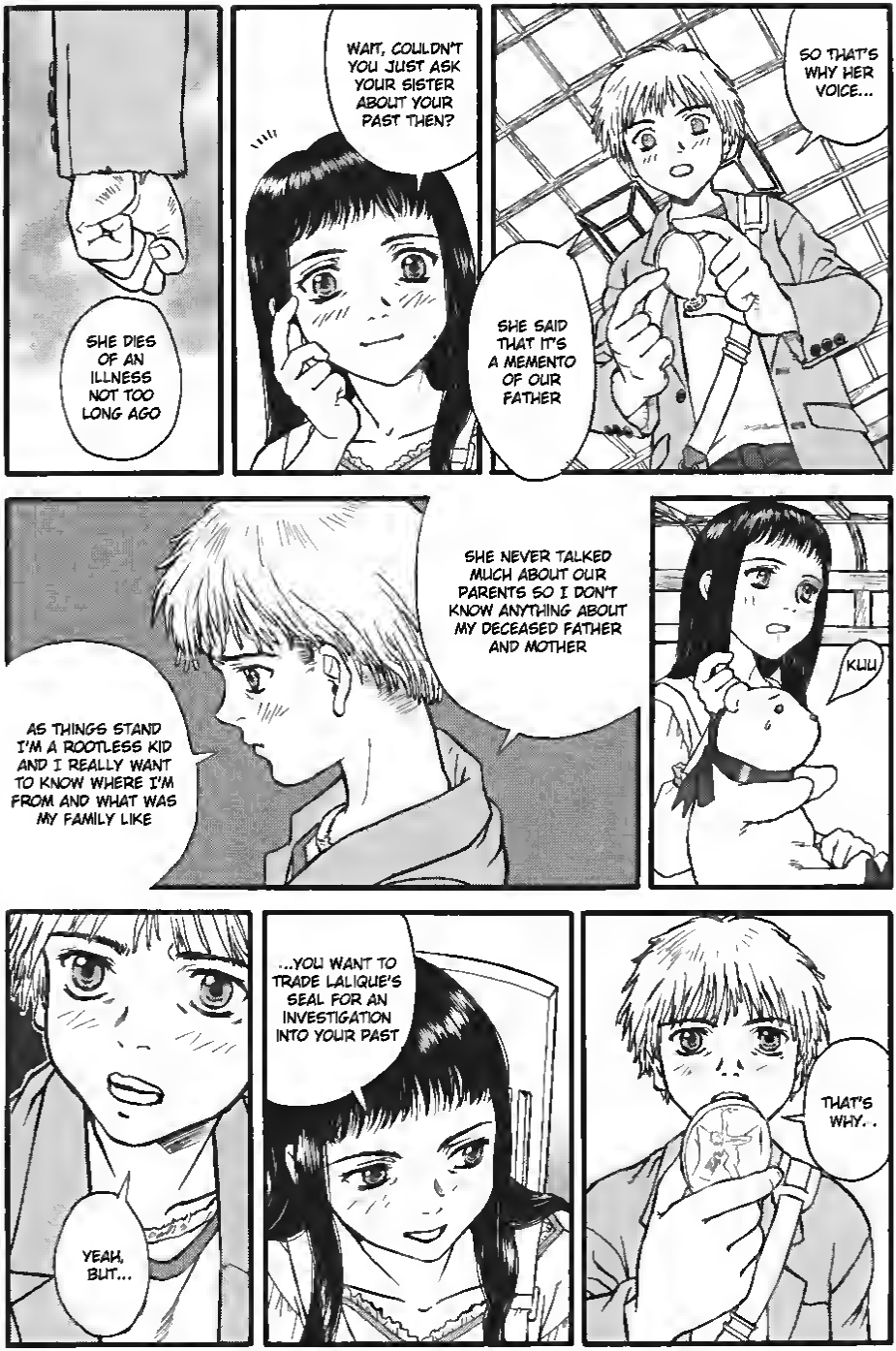
AND SO SHE SHOWED ME THE WAY TO KITA-SENJU HERE
AH
YOU DON'T SEEM TO BE A BLOCKHEAD SO DO YOU HAVE ANY LEADS?
BUT SHE'S AN IMPORTANT BUSINESS PARTNER, SHE SELLS OUR DEAD STOCK
YEAH, FOR WHOLE-SALE PRICE...
THAT OLD HAG JUST HAD TO...
THE OLD LADY SAID TO SHOW THIS TO YOU
HERE
LALIQUE'S "WINGED WOMAN", ISN'T IT

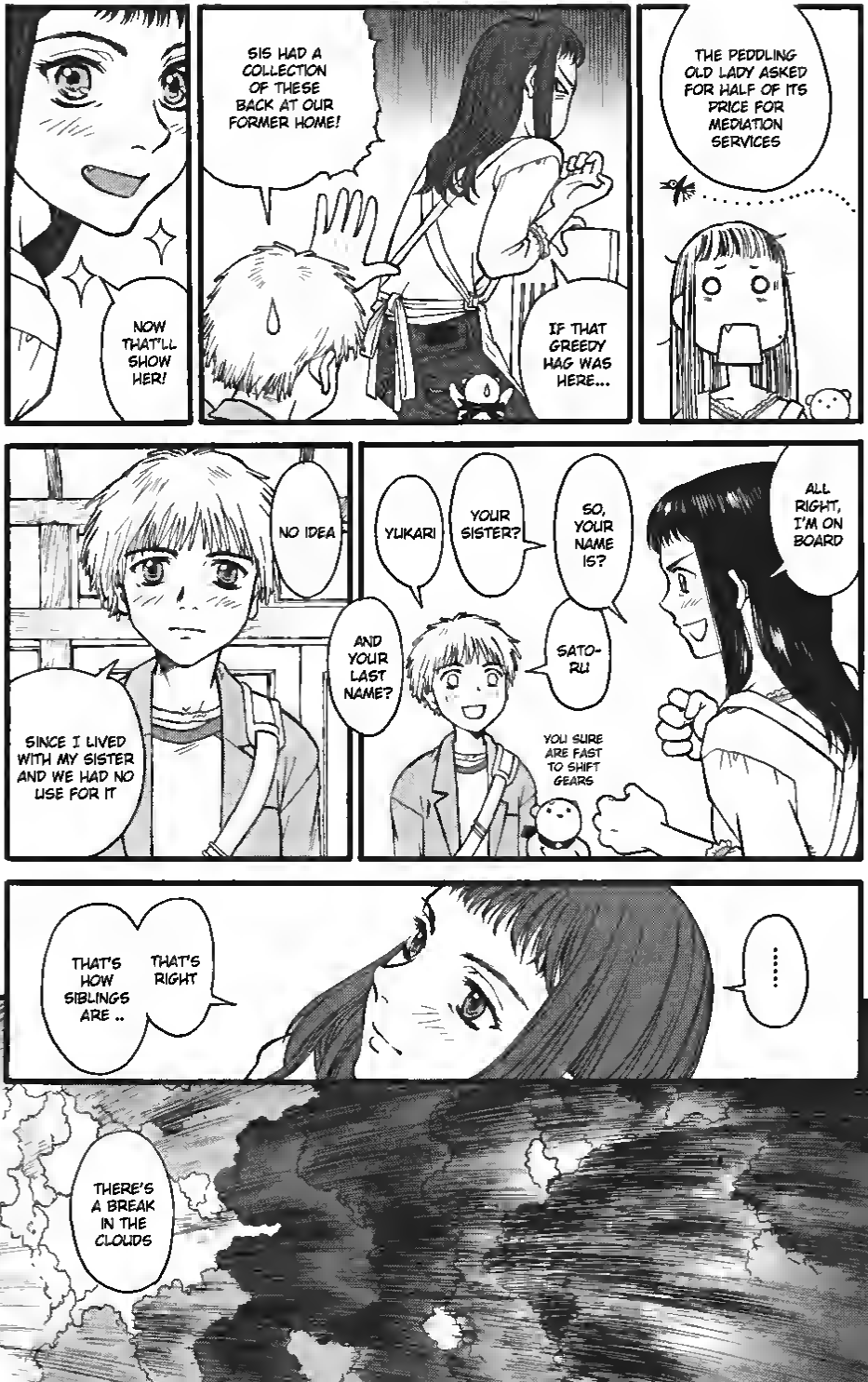
HE LIVED MORE THAN A CENTURY AGO
RENE LALIQUE, A FRENCH GLASS DESIGNER.
HIS WORKS DATE FROM THE END OF THE 19TH CENTURY TO THE BEGINNING OF THE 20TH
LALI-QUE?
HE COMBINED HANDMADE ART WITH FACTORY MASS-PRODUCTION
THE WORLD'S FIRST INDUSTRIAL ARTIST, KUU
THIS IS A SEAL MADE WITH A PRESS
HIS CAREER AS A GLASS-MAKER HAS REALLY STARTED WHEN HE BEGAN WORKING ON PERFUME BOTTLES WHEN HE WAS ABOUT 50 YEARS OLD
HIS ACCESSORIES AND JEWELRY DESIGN WERE HELD IN HIGH REGARD, BUT
IT'S DEFINITELY FROM THE GLASS PERIOD, THE ART NOUVEAU FLOWER PATTERNS AND THE FLOW OF THE FEMALE FIGURE HERE PUT IT AT AROUND 1919 OR SO
I SEE
MY SISTER AND THE OLDER FOLKS WE KNOW TAUGHT ME THINGS, SO I MORE OR LESS UNDERSTAND, YEAH
HEHEHE...
YOU GET ALL THAT?


AT ME, KUU!
HEY, DON'T POINT THAT SENSOR
くわっ
LET ME SCAN IT
IT WAS PRETTY POPULAR IF IT IS THE REAL THING
?
SURE, SURE
KUU-
minolta SR-1 101
THIS GLITTER...
...IT'S SO PRETTY...
LOOK.


WHY WAS MY SISTER'S VOICE THERE?
WHAT ARE THESE "VALUES" YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT?
JUST WHAT IS THAT DEVICE?
THESE VALUES AREN'T HALF BAD
+23
I'D PUT A GOOD PRICE TAG ON IT
SAVED, WHEW
SIS...
LISTEN
DO YOU BELIEVE IN STUFF LIKE FAIRIES OR GHOSTS?
THAT'S RIGHT
THERE'S NO REAL PROOF FOR THAT AS A PHENOMENON SO IT'S LONG BEEN CONSIDERED UNSCIENTIFICAL
I'VE HEARD ABOUT THEM, BUT I'M NOT REALLY SURE
DO YOU KNOW ABOUT IMAGINARY NUMBERS?
NOT REALLY
THESE ARE SUCH NUMBERS THAT PRODUCE NEGATIVE VALUE WHEN YOU SQUARE THEM
YEAH, NO WONDER YOU WOULDN'T

IT'S A KIRLIAN CAMERA
AND THAT'S WHAT THIS DEVICE MEASURES
AT SOME POINT IT WAS DISCOVERED TO HAVE A CERTAIN RELATION TO THE ACTIVITY OF THE HUMAN MIND - OR THE SPIRIT
LONG STORY SHORT, THIS IS ABOUT MATH THAT DEALS WITH NUMBERS THAT DON'T EXIST IN NATURE
YOU CAN SAY THEY BECOME POSSESSED BY A "GHOST"
THERE CAN BE GOOD GHOSTS AND BAD GHOSTS, GIVING OFF POSITIVE AND NEGATIVE VALUES RESPECTIVELY
PEOPLE'S FEELINGS TRANSFER TO THINGS IN A SIMILAR FASHION
S
REPEAT
N
IT'S MUCH LIKE A STEEL ROD THAT BECOMES MAGNETIZED ITSELF IF YOU RUB IT WITH A MAGNET
HMM
BUT ISN'T THIS AN OBJECT? NOT A SPIRIT?
AND THAT'S BECAUSE IT HAS YOUR SISTER'S AFFECTION IN IT IT'D BE THE OPPOSITE IF IT HAD A "MINUS" NUMBER
BASICALLY EVEN FOR US ANTIQUE SELLERS THERE'S A NEW PARAMETER TO CARE ABOUT
BUT ALSO ABOUT THE AMOUNT OF LOVE IN AN OBJECT
SO THESE DAYS IT'S NOT ONLY ABOUT AGE, RARITY OR EXPERT OPINION
THE ONES WITH BETTER SPIRITS MAKE YOU FEEL HAPPIER
SO IT'S VALUABLE BECAUSE IT HAD A "PLUS" NUMBER?

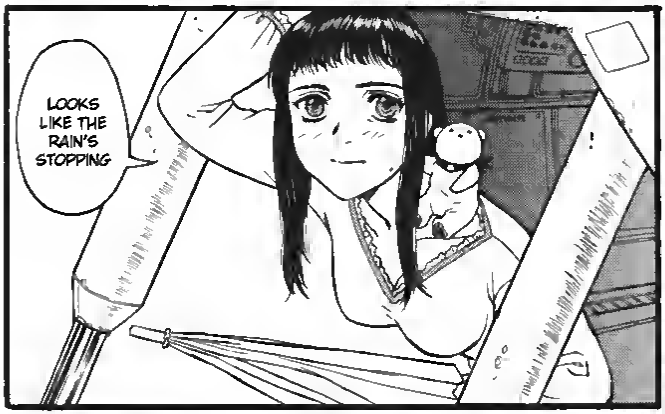

SHE DIES OF AN ILLNESS NOT TOO LONG AGO
WAIT, COULDN'T YOU JUST ASK YOUR SISTER ABOUT YOUR PAST THEN?
SHE SAID THAT IT'S A MEMENTO OF OUR FATHER
SO THAT'S WHY HER VOICE...
AS THINGS STAND I'M A ROOTLESS KID AND I REALLY WANT TO KNOW WHERE I'M FROM AND WHAT WAS MY FAMILY LIKE
SHE NEVER TALKED MUCH ABOUT OUR PARENTS SO I DON'T KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT MY DECEASED FATHER AND MOTHER
KUU
YEAH, BUT...
...YOU WANT TO TRADE LALIQUE'S SEAL FOR AN INVESTIGATION INTO YOUR PAST
THAT'S WHY. .


NOW THAT'LL SHOW HER!
SIS HAD A COLLECTION OF THESE BACK AT OUR FORMER HOME!
IF THAT GREEDY HAG WAS HERE...
THE PEDDLING OLD LADY ASKED FOR HALF OF ITS PRICE FOR MEDIATION SERVICES
NO IDEA
SINCE I LIVED WITH MY SISTER AND WE HAD NO USE FOR IT
YUKARI
YOUR SISTER?
SO, YOUR NAME IS?
SATO-RU
AND YOUR LAST NAME?
YOU SURE ARE FAST TO SHIFT GEARS
ALL RIGHT, I'M ON BOARD
THAT'S HOW SIBLINGS ARE ..
THAT'S RIGHT
.....
THERE'S A BREAK IN THE CLOUDS

TERRIBLE ISN'T IT
THIS HAS ONCE BEEN THE TOKYO MEGALOPOLIS

10 YEARS, GIVE OR TAKE, AND SOUTHERN KANTO WILL BECOME A PILE OF ASH AND RUBBLE
THE RAIN ABSORBED THE VOLCANIC GASES AND TURNED INTO A STRONG ACID RAIN
AND STARTED RAPIDLY DECOMPOSING THE STRUCTURES
THE SKY CLEARED UP DUE TO THE RAIN
THAT'S THE FUJI MOUNTAIN
LOOK, THERE, IN THE RIFT BETWEEN THE CLOUDS
A HUGE ERUPTION FROM THE MOUNTAINSIDE AND THE FIRST SINCE MORE THAN THREE HUNDRED YEARS AGO IN THE HOUEI ERA
TO BE PRECISE THE EARTHQUAKE THAT CAUSED THE ERUPTION WAS IN THE SURUGA BAY, KUU
THE MOUNTAIN WHERE THE BIG EARTH-QUAKE OCCURED...
CAUSED AN EARTHQUAKE RIGHT UNDER THE CAPITAL CITY
AND THEN A TREMENDOUS SERIES OF EARTH-QUAKES FROM THE EASTERN TO THE SOUTH-EASTERN COAST

THERE ARE PEOPLE WHO SAY THEY WANT TO RETURN TO THEIR FORMER LANDS
HUMANS ARE NO MATCH FOR THE SCALE OF TIME USED BY NATURE, KUU
THERE'S NO WAY TO KNOW IF IT'S GOING TO CONTINUE FOR YEARS OR EVEN DECADES
DESPITE ALL OF THE VICTIMS AND REFUGEES, DESPITE TURNING THE CITY INTO RUINS, THE ERUPTIONS STILL AREN'T SHOWING ANY SIGNS OF STOPPING, KUU
THERE'S NOTHING FOR US BUT TO LIVE UNDER THIS GRAY SKY AND BEING COVERED IN ASH
BUT YOU CAN'T KEEP DREAMING OF THE PAST, YOU CAN'T TURN BACK TIME
IS IT OK TO LAND THERE?
AH
I THINK THAT PARKING LOT IS NEAR THE KEISEI RAIL TONNEL ENTRANCE


LOOKS LIKE THE RAIN'S STOPPING

THIS WAY

.....
WE'RE GOING DOWN?
SO THERE'S AN UNDER-GROUND PASSAGE HERE ..
WHAT IS THIS PLACE?
KAN-EIJI-SAKA STATION, KUU
IT'S DARK HERE SO WATCH YOUR STEP
SO SOME-THING LIKE THIS STILL EXISTS, HUH...
IT'S A "GHOST STATION" ON THE KEISEI LINE, IT WAS CLOSED IN 1947, KUU
IT WAS LEASED TO PRIVATE CORPORA-TIONS AS LONG AS THEY DIDN'T REMODEL IT

!?
IT IS PITCH-DARK HERE
THAT WAY, KUU
CAREFUL, THERE'S A STEP HERE
?
WIND?
SINCE WE'RE AT THE RAIL TRACK ALREADY

IT'S HARD TO WALK IF YOU'RE NOT USED TO THE INTERVAL BETWEEN SLEEPERS
WELL, I'VE BEEN LIVING HERE SINCE I WAS THIS HIGH
YOU SEEM USED TO THIS
HOP
KUU~
NAH. IF WE HAPPEN UPON OTHER LALIQUE'S WORKS, I'LL USE THOSE TO PAY OFF THE GRANNY
THE KID SHOULD HOLD ON TO THAT MEMENTO
LENA...
MM?
ARE YOU GOING TO TAKE THAT KEEPSAKE OF HIS SISTER, KUU?

!?
HE'S A NICE AND HONEST KID, Y'KNOW
LOOKS CHILDISH, BUT HE'S GOT TO BE AROUND MIDDLE-SCHOOL AGE, I BET
THE FACT THAT HE WAS BROUGHT UP LIKE THAT IN THIS HARSH ENVIRONMENT IS A MYSTERY IN ITSELF
THERE'S LIGHT AHEAD
LAMPS?
THAT'S WHERE I LIVE
WE'RE ALMOST THERE
AN UNDERGROUND COLONY... I'VE NEVER VISITED ONE BEFORE
I'M KINDA SCARED KUU